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### GWU Opera Theatre to Present “The Tender Land”

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# GWU Opera Theatre to Present "The Tender Land"

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Office of University Communications

October 19, 2012

## *Opera Showing Nov. 2-4 in the Dover Theatre*

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – The Gardner-Webb University School of Performing and Visual Arts will present "The Tender Land," an opera by Aaron Copland, on Nov. 2-3 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 4 at 2:30 p.m. The opera will take place in the Dover Theatre, located beside the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center.

Set in the 1930s, "The Tender Land" is a coming-of-age story about a teenage girl who is about to graduate from high school in a small rural town and is ready to go out and experience the world.

The cast of 20 includes Gardner-Webb University students, faculty, staff and alumni as well as several members of the community.

"The Tender Land" is directed by assistant professor Dr. Megan McCauley. McCauley believes the opera will be interesting to students, as well as the community at large. "I chose 'The Tender Land' because when Copland first wrote the opera in 1954 he wrote it specifically for a college, so the music is great for college students to sing," McCauley shared.

McCauley hopes that the audience can take away a number of things from experiencing the opera. "I think art should always change its audience," she said, "The message of the opera is of personal growth, of learning to look past differences and find love, and most important, challenging yourself to think outside of the box."

Tickets for "The Tender Land" will be available at the door before performances. General admission is \$10, seniors and non-GWU students \$8, and is free to GWU students, faculty and staff.

In addition to evening performances, two matinees will be presented to fourth-grade students from Cleveland County Schools on Oct. 30 at 9:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. This will be the 32nd year that the production will open doors to local students.

Additional information is available on this production and other fine arts events at 704-406-4448.

*Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University was founded in 1905 and is home to nearly 5,000 students. Gardner-Webb seeks a higher ground in higher education—one that embraces faith and intellectual freedom, and inspires in students a love of learning, service, and leadership.*